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SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, how the Hon. Minister for Agriculture is responsible for the construction of the overbridge? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I am supposed to be in charge of Railways so far as this State is concerned and that is why I am answering the question regarding the construction of an overbridge near the railway station."

Missing of 1,300 *rice bags from the Pallikkara Producers'*-cum-*Consumers' Co-operative Society, South Malabar.*

* 707 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that 1,300 bags of rice were missing from the Pallikkara Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society of South Malabar after the Executive Officer assumed charge; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No bags of rice were found to be missing. But during the period from 1st June 1949 to 21st January 1953, when the Executive Officer was in charge of Pallikkara Provincial Co-operative Credit Society, a shortage of 4,301 bags of rice, 849 bags of paddy and 60 bags of other foodgrains was noticed.

" (*b*) The Society has filed an arbitration reference against the persons responsible for the recovery of the loss due to the shortage in excess of the normal shortage of 2 per cent, noticed during 1952–53. The shortage noticed during the other years were less than 2 per cent and their value was written off the accounts by the Society. The Government do not therefore propose to take any action in the matter."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of the fact that particularly in Malabar many incidents of this kind are reported, and discussed in the Assembly also, may I know from the Hon. Minister the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such things happening in the future? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, as far as the co-operative societies are concerned, each case is dealt with according to requirements."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know the period during which the Executive Officer was functioning in this society? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I think he was functioning from 1949 to 1953."

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SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, was this damage caused by old bandicoots? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the abnormal godown shortage during 1952–53 is reported to be due to the accumulation of huge stocks in the godowns on account of heavy receipts of stocks, lack of proper storage facilities and falling of the roof of the main godown and probably also due to bandicoots."

* 708 *Q.*—

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, questions 708 and 709 may be taken up together as they are similar."

Removal of pumpsets in Raja and Komarapalayam channels in Namakkal taluk, Salem district.

SRI R. RANGASWAMI GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have passed any orders regarding the removal of pumpsets in Raja and Komarapalayam channels after the construction of the bed regulator ; and

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy of their orders on the table of the House?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) Copies [a] of the orders issued in the matter are placed on the table of the House."

Pumping scheme for Raja and Komarapalayam channels in Namakkal taluk, Salem district.

* 709 *Q.*—SRI R. RANGASWAMY GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the recommendations of the Chief Engineer regarding the pumping scheme in Raja and Komarapalayam channels in Namakkal taluk, Salem district ; and

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy of his report on the table of the House?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) The Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by stating the recommendations of the Chief Engineer. The final decision was reached by the Government.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 683-684 infra.